

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 and 16-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 8 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 4 and 8 can be found, for example, in the present specification at page 5, lines 23 to 25 and page 6, lines 25 to 27, and in original claims 4 and 8. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Personal Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Brunsman during the August 19, 2008 Personal Interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 8 as failing to comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

By this Amendment, claims 4 and 8 are amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this Amendment, claims 4 and 8 are amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Azzopardi and Chang

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,997,943 to Azzopardi et al. ("Azzopardi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,678,835 to Chang et al. ("Chang"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] two-component system for equipping a surface with an oil, water, and dirt repellent coating, the system, comprising: a first sealed vessel comprising a formulation 1; and a second sealed vessel comprising a formulation 2; wherein ... the system is configured so that the first sealed vessel and the second sealed vessel can be unsealed and their respective contents mixed together shortly before application to the surface" (emphasis added). Azzopardi and Chang do not disclose or suggest such a two-component system.

Claim 1 is directed to a two-component system or kit for providing smooth surfaces with "easy-to-clean" properties. *See* present specification, page 2, lines 13 to 16. One of the separate, sealed containers of the kit must include at least one of the carbosilanes of formulae (I) and (II). It is these carbosilanes that impart the above-mentioned "easy-to-clean" properties to a smooth surface. The "easy-to-clean" properties are embodied in, for example, a special beading effect toward oil and water. *See* present specification, page 9, lines 20 to 25. Because the formulations of the two-component system are provided in separate, sealed containers, this "easy-to-clean" effect is coupled with nearly unlimited shelf life. That is, when kept separate, the formulations of claim 1 have a nearly unlimited shelf life. When combined, the formulations provide a compositions that is extremely effective, as described above, but has short shelf life. By providing the formulations of claim 1 in separate, sealed containers until application, the present inventors have achieved an arrangement in which an extremely effective composition is given a nearly unlimited shelf life. *See* present invention,

page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 9. The only teaching or suggestion of such arrangement is found in the present specification.

As indicated above, claim 1 is directed to a two-component system including two separate formulations sealed in separate containers. The Office Action concedes that Azzopardi does not disclose or suggest such a configuration. *See* Office Action, page 4. However, the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to provide parts of the composition of Azzopardi in separate, sealed containers, in view of the teachings of Chang. *See* Office Action, page 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Azzopardi simply provides no teaching or suggestion that the components of the disclosed composition could or should be provided in separate, sealed containers. While Chang discloses providing separate components of a composition in separate containers (*see* Chang, column 24, lines 49 to 65), Chang is directed to a composition used to form a resin. The components of the composition of Chang are not the same as the components of the composition of Azzopardi, and the respective compositions are not for the same applications. Even if Chang was conceded to suggest that the disclosed two-component systems may have a longer shelf life, this suggestion is not readily applicable to Azzopardi, which uses entirely different components. Moreover, even if properly combined, the combined teachings of Azzopardi and Chang are not sufficient to obtain the systems of claim 1 – neither Azzopardi nor Chang provides any guidance as to which components of the composition of Azzopardi should be placed in which separate, sealed container. The mere possibility that two-component systems have longer shelf life is not enough to lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Azzopardi to obtain the specific two-component system of claim 1. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made.

As Azzopardi and Chang fail to disclose or suggest a two-component system including a first sealed vessel comprising a formulation 1 and a second sealed vessel

comprising a formulation 2, where the system is configured so that the first sealed vessel and the second sealed vessel can be unsealed and their respective contents mixed together shortly before application to the surface, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

As explained, claim 1 is not anticipated by Azzopardi. Claims 2-11 and 13, 14 and 16-20 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Azzopardi. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Azzopardi, Chang and Brancaleoni

The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Azzopardi in view of Chang and U.S. Patent No. 5,264,010 to Brancaleoni et al. ("Brancaleoni"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is set forth above. For the reasons discussed above, Azzopardi and Chang do not disclose or suggest the two-component system of claim 1. Brancaleoni does not remedy the deficiencies of Azzopardi and Chang. The Office Action relies on Brancaleoni for its alleged disclosure of employing metal oxide slurries to polish glass surfaces. *See* Office Action, pages 2 to 3. However, Brancaleoni, like Azzopardi and Chang, fails to disclose or suggest fails to disclose or suggest a two-component system including a first sealed vessel comprising a formulation 1 and a second sealed vessel comprising a formulation 2, where the system is configured so that the first sealed vessel and the second sealed vessel can be unsealed and their respective contents mixed together shortly before application to the surface, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

As explained, claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by Azzopardi, Chang and Brancaleoni. Claim 12 depends from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been

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rendered obvious by Azzopardi, Chang and Brancaleoni. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

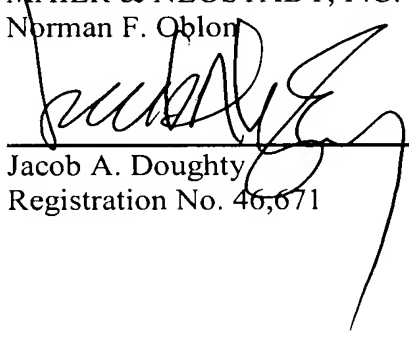
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-14 and 16-20 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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